

1. Prophecy fulfilled

- a) Isaiah 7:16 The LORD revealed through the prophet Isaiah that both the northern kingdom of Israel and Syria would be destroyed. When was this prophecy fulfilled? 2 Kings 15:29-30, 16:7-9 (734-722 BC)
- b) How would you have responded if you were a faithful servant of the LORD living in the northern kingdom of Israel at that time?
- c) How should we respond today when we recognize our leaders have disregarded the counsel of God?

2. Consequences of turning away from the LORD

- a) 2 Kings 16:10-18 What troubles you as you read this account of the apostasy of King Ahaz, whose father Jotham “did what was right in the sight of the LORD”? (see also 2 Chronicles 28:22-25)
- b) Name some other Bible characters whose lives degenerated when they turned away from the LORD.
- c) What counsel would you give to a friend who says to you, “I have wandered so far away from God and done things I never would have imagined just a few years ago. Is there any hope for me?”
- d) Share your testimony of a time when the LORD rescued you from the path that leads to destruction.

3. The testimony of Isaiah’s second son

- a) What is the meaning of the name of Isaiah’s second son? What prophesy is given through his name? Isaiah 8:3-4

- b) When we face calamities, why is it important to remember the name of Isaiah’s first son, Shear-Jashub, and also the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14?

4. Choosing to reverence the LORD rather than be fearful

- a) Isaiah 8:11-13 The word “fear” has two meanings both in Hebrew and Greek: to be afraid, or to reverence. What makes the difference?
- b) Share some Bible texts that encourage us not be afraid. Isaiah 41:10, Revelation 1:17-18, Luke 12:32, etc.
- c) Share Bible texts that encourage us to “fear the LORD”, showing Him reverence and respect. Psalm 34:8-10, Revelation 14:6-7, etc.

5. Choosing to listen to God rather than demons

- a) What warning does the LORD give regarding occult practices introduced by King Ahaz? Isaiah 8:19
- b) What other passages of Scripture warn us about engaging in occult practices? Deuteronomy 18:9-12, Leviticus 19:31, etc.
- c) Why are these warnings so relevant today?
- d) Rather than listen to demons, where should we turn for counsel? Isaiah 8:20, Jeremiah 33:3, etc.

